Government have liberalised Industrial Trade and Fiscal policies to enable iridi genous industry to improve product qua lity and competitiveness through measurelike upgradation of technology and import of better quality raw materials.

Manganese Ore (India) Ltd

2129. SHRI SURINDER KUMAR SINGLA : DR. SHRIKANT RAM CHANDRA JICHKAR : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased M state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Manganese Ore (India) Ltd. is running in los-for the last three years if so, what are the details thereof ;

(b) whether the Manganese Ore India Ltd. would be privatised in the near future, and if so, by when; and

(c) whether in view of the new economic policy Manganese Mining would be allowed in the Private Sector ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) No, Sir. The ac tual position is that Manganese One (India) Ltd. has been making profits during the period.

(b) There is no proposal to private Manganese Ore (India) Ltd.

(c) Yes, Sir.

Merger of Visakhapatnam Steel Plant with SAIL

2130. DR. YELMANCJHILI SIVAJI : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) wheher Government have receivec any representations from the workers to merge Visakhapatnam Steel Plant into "'eel Authority of India Limited;

(b) if so: what are the details thereof; and

(c) at what stage of consideration these proposals are ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) and (b) Visakha Sleel Mazdoor Sangh has submitted a memorandum inter-alia demanding that Visakhapatnam Steel Plant (VSP) should be merged in SAIL.

(c) There is no proposal to merge VSP with SAIL.

Modernisation of Steel Plants

2131. PROF. SAUR1N BHATTA-CHARYA : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) the details of modernisation plans of different steel plants that are awaiting clearance of the Central Government till today along with their dates of submis sions;

(b) the details of on-going modernisa-ion programme undertaken by other steel plants together with the amount of payments made to each foreignjdomestic companies in the past three years along with the details of resources mobilised in ;he past three years;

(c) whether it is a fact that Government could not avoid the delays because of certain irregularities; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) The following proposals of steel plants are awaiting clearance :—

(i) Bokaro Steel Plant (BSL) : SAIL's proposal of April, 1992 based on alternative strategy of modernisation.